Study/Objective: To quantify the frequency and intention with which “stampede” is used to describe types of Mass Gathering (MG) disasters.

Background: Hazard vulnerability analysis would identify “human stampedes” as high probability events at MGs. Over 200 “stampedes” have occurred in the past 30 years. At the 2015 Hajj, at least 2,000 pilgrims died in one of the deadliest MG disasters in recent history. News and literature referenced the event as the “Hajj Stampede”, implying abruptly increased speed and mass panic. At the crux of many of these events, however, is a dense, immobile crowd – hardly the uncontrolled mindless mass implied.

Methods: The authors performed a systematic search of peer reviewed literature indexed in PubMed, EMBASE, and Web of Science. Abstracts were limited to human studies in English and keyword ‘stampede’. Grey literature using ‘stampede’ in the title or abstract in reference to MG disasters were also reviewed.

Results: Search strategy using the term “stampede” yielded 649 articles. After excluding those using the term 1) apropos computing, 2) as an acronym, or 3) colloquially, fifty-six remained which used the term in reference to mass gathering disasters. Within these articles, fourteen incidents were described in detail. “Stampede” was used in the same context as “crowd disaster”, “turbulence”, “quake”, “mass panic”, “crush”, and “trampling”.

Conclusion: It is important to distinguish between stampede and non-stampede events. Few articles describing stampedes actually involve speed anywhere in the description. The generic “stampede”, through suggesting a fast moving, irrational and culpable crowd, focuses on herding the masses rather than improving venue safety. We must stem the notion that these disasters are a whim of the crowd and work towards evidence-based engineered solutions.

Emerging Disasters and Non Traditional Health Threats, A Terminology Scoping Review

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Study/Objective: To examine and map the range of new and emerging disaster risks, based on evolving disaster: definitions, terms, and classifications in contemporary practice.

Background: Disaster risk reporting is primarily produced to identify who may be at risk (vulnerable populations) to specific events (cause). There is a paucity of discussion and literature attempting to establish what the emerging causes are of disasters, and consequently recognition of their potential impact. Possible reasons for this may include perceptions of these causes being non traditional threats, and therefore not readily identifiable as disasters. Nevertheless, many of these events currently meet established criteria defining ‘disasters’.

Methods: A scoping review utilizing the framework articulated by the Joanna Briggs Institute was undertaken to examine the extent, range and nature of new definitions of disaster in the existing literature.

Results: There is great diversity within disaster peer reviewed literature and further breadth in the “grey literature”,